

Application No. 10/681,432
Amendment dated December 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 23, 2005

Remarks

The Examiner has objected to claims 3 and 5 for stated reasons. Claim 3 is being amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. In claim 5, the Examiner suggests replacing the word "vending" with the word "allocating". Applicant prefers the word "vending" for the reason that this claim emphasizes the commercial advantage of providing an article security case that is useful with different security systems made by different manufacturers or vendors, as will be further apparent from the discussion below. If, however, the Examiner still finds the word "vending" objectionable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Applicant's counsel who will agree to rewording the claim to expedite allowance of the application.

The Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for certain stated reasons. The claim has been amended to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MacTaggart U.S. Patent No. 5,236,086 in view of Torii U.S. Patent No. 5,598,151. Applicant submits that neither MacTaggart nor Torii, considered alone or in combination, suggests a case for securing articles comprising structure configured to receive and support a wireless transmitter of any one of a plurality of different facility security systems, to connect the sensor to a wireless transmitter supported by the receiving structure, and to communicate the alarm condition from the sensor to the transmitter in response to a breach of security of the interior space, as recited by claim 1. Further, neither reference teaches a case for securing articles for protection by a security system where the case comprises wireless or other means on the enclosure for connecting the sensor to any one of a plurality of different facility security systems, as recited by claim 21.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 5-8, 10-14 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MacTagert in view of Torii and in further view of Yagesh U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0113783. Yagesh also does not teach a case useful with any one of a plurality of different facility security systems.

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Accordingly, no *prima facie* case of the obviousness of Applicant's claimed combination is made by the cited references.

Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the feature of the case of the invention as claimed wherein a single article security case can be used with any of more than one different facility or premises security system. This provides advantages not provided by the prior art.

For example, many facilities such as residential premises are protected by alarm systems that protect the premises against theft. It is possible to have these systems installed with special enclosures in which to secure jewelry, firearms or other items with the enclosures wired with sensors that are coupled to the facility alarm system, so that tampering with the enclosure will trip the facility alarm. Many facility alarm system vendors provide add-ons to expand the system to provide special article enclosures. But to connect these to the facility alarm system, vendor specific sensors or transmitters or wiring must be added to the system, which involves considerable expense. Further, not every alarm system manufacturer makes available every kind of specialty enclosure that a customer might want.

The present invention provides enclosures in the form of cases in which to secure any of a number of kinds of items. These cases can be sold by sellers of the items that are to be protected. For example, a gun dealer can stock and sell a gun case provided by the present invention as an accessory to a firearm being sold to a customer. The customer can connect the case into a home alarm system without regard to the brand or type of system that the customer has. That is because a case according to the present invention has provision for accepting a wireless transmitter or some other means that might be provided by or available from the maker of any one of many facility or premises alarm systems to work with that system. This provides a potentially low cost alternative to the cost of upgrading a facility alarm system by the system manufacturer.

In independent claim 1, for example, an alarm ready case that includes a base, an openable lid, an interior space, a lock, and at least one sensor is provided with receiving structure configured to receive and support a wireless transmitter of

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any one of a plurality of different facility security systems and circuitry configured to connect the sensor to such a wireless transmitter to communicate an alarm condition.

In independent claim 5, a method of securing an article comprises providing each of a plurality of cases with a space therein, at least one sensor, and connectivity structure configured to connect the sensor to means compatible with at least one of a plurality of different security systems, and vending at least two such cases for use with different security systems, with the cases being vended without the connectivity structure connected to a security system.

Independent claim 10 calls for a case for securing articles for protection by any of a plurality of security systems. The case includes an openable enclosure having an interior space, a lock, a sensor and connectivity structure configured to connect the sensor to any one of at least two different means compatible with at least one of the plurality of security systems.

Further, in independent claim 21, a case comprises an openable enclosure having an interior space, a lock, a sensor, and means for connecting the sensor to any one of a plurality of different facility security systems.

It can be seen that the cited references, considered alone or together, lack a distinguishing feature of the combination claimed by Applicant.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve any outstanding issues and expedite the allowance of this application.

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A Petition for Extension of time is filed herewith. Applicant does not believe that any additional fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if such extension is due or any other fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to deposit account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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